

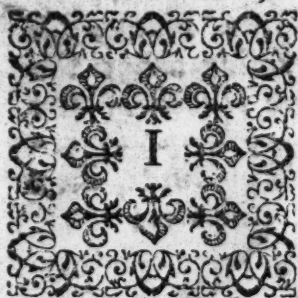
A  
L E T T E R

TO A

*K Allen Esq*

FRIEND in the Country, &c.

S I R,



Am greatly oblig'd to you for any Concern you shew to have the famous *Memorial* of the famous Mr. *Roland Cotton* set in a true Light ; which I shall cursorily, clearly and impartially do, and doubt not but that you ( as well as every unprejudiced Person ) will be of Opinion with me, That the *Memorial* and *Memorialist* deserve nothing but *Scorn*, and *Contempt*. And that its not to be accounted for, why the Honourable House of Representatives did not rather *spurn* it out than take the least Notice of it ; of which you'll be the better Judge, by the Letters and Proofs herewith presented you. The first in Order, is a Letter to a Friend at *Woburn* ; of which the following is a Copy.

To Mr. *Samuel Thompson* at *Woburn*.

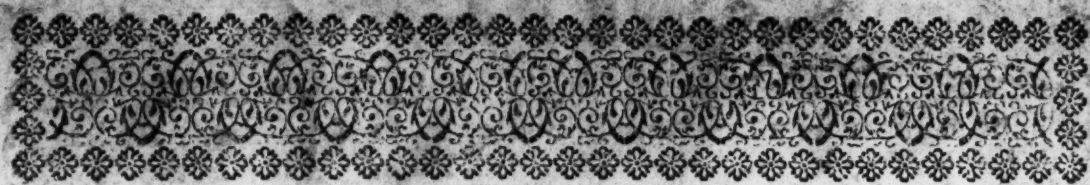
S I R,

“ I Perceive Mr. *Roland Cotton*, your late Representative, greatly  
“ imposes upon your Town, by pretending to be in the Country  
“ Interest ; and that he was *Nay* in voting about the Supply of the  
“ Treasury ; both which, to my certain Knowledge, are notoriously  
“ false. As to the First, to my certain Observation, as well as many worthy  
“ Gentlemen in the Court, he is as great a Tool as any in it ; and it is the  
A universal

\* It was not known what Town he was of, till they  
picked him up : \* Except those who are Tools to

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“ versal Surprize of all good Men, That the Town of *Woburn* is so  
 “ unjust to themselves and the Province, as to send him. And as to  
 “ his being *Nay*, it is notoriously known, he was *Neuter* in the House ;  
 “ and I presume, put himself into the Papers to deceive his Town :  
 “ But hope their Eyes will be open, and they’ll be thoroughly con-  
 “ vinc’d, That he can’t faithfully do his Duty as a Clerk and as a  
 “ Representative ( if he does it as either ) and that for the Good of their  
 “ Town and Country, they’ll reject him, and send a better Man. The  
 “ above, ( if disputed ) I can easily prove by Gentlemen of undoubted  
 “ Character.

*Your Humble Servant,*

BOSTON, *May*  
 15. 1740.



James Allen.

Give me Leave, Sir, to remark, That as to my Opinion of his being  
 a *Tool*, it’s not worth while to labour it, because I apprehend it’s *self*  
*evident* ; and of which can produce such Proofs as the Nature of  
 the Thing admits of. But as to his being *Nay*, in voting about the  
 Supply of the Treasury, it is notoriously known, he was *Neuter* in the  
 House, ( though this Year, for supplying within 1741, perhaps to re-  
 ceive his own Pay ) which I prove by sundry worthy Gentlemen, then  
 Members of the House, as appears by the following Certificates :

To Mr. *Flag* of *Woburn*.

S I R,

*Allen Knight of the Post*  
 “ I HAVE not the least Inclination to concern my self in the Dis-  
 “ pute between Messrs. *Allen* and *Cotton*. But being inform’d,  
 “ that it’s reported at *Woburn*, in order to hurt Mr. *Allen*’s  
 “ Character, as if when you and Mr. *Thompson* came to enquire  
 “ of me, Whether Mr. *Cotton* was really ( as Mr. *Allen* in his Letter  
 “ had charged him ) a *Neuter* on the Question for supplying the Trea-  
 “ sury----That I told them I had seen that Letter, and refused to sign  
 “ it, because it was false. I think Truth and a tender Regard to my  
 “ Neighbour’s Character, require me to declare, That if any such Re-  
 “ port there be, it is grossly false and injurious : And you knowing it  
 “ to be so, ought to contradict it wherever you find it.----- You know  
 “ well



“ well I told you, that as Mr. *Cotton*, when his Turn came, should  
 “ have declared himself either *Yea* or *Nay* upon the Question then put ;  
 “ so Mr. *Allen*, when he represented, that he did not, should have  
 “ given the Account of that Matter in all its Circumstances.

*Yours,*

Boston, June  
 18. 1740.

Thomas Cushing, *jun.*



### Mr. *Edward Bromfield's* Certificate.

“ I Nasmuch as Mr. *James Allen* has declar'd, That when the Mem-  
 “ bers of the House of Representatives answer'd a Question put  
 “ to them on the 25th of *March* last, about supplying the Trea-  
 “ sury, to be drawn in before the Year 1741, Mr. *Roland Cot-*  
 “ *ton* was *Neuter* ; And the said Mr. *Cotton's* Conduct in that Affair  
 “ has been represented so as to bear injuriously on Mr. *Allen's* Cha-  
 “ racter, I think my self oblig'd in Justice to represent the Matter as  
 “ fully and exactly as I can remember.  
 “ After the House of Representatives had resolved to vote by *Yeas*  
 “ and *Nays* on the aforesaid Question, Mr. *Cotton* was directed to take  
 “ the List of the Members, and call upon every One in order as they  
 “ stood on the List : When the Call was over, several Members were  
 “ uneasy that Mr. *Cotton* should pass over his own Name and not  
 “ vote with the rest : And being question'd by some of the Mem-  
 “ bers of the Reason of his Conduct, he reply'd, *That he was not*  
 “ *call'd upon* ; and also added, *That the Speaker and Clerk were excus'd* \*  
 “ *from voting, unless when there was a Tye.*

Edward Bromfield.

Boston, June  
 20. 1740.

Mr.

\* *The Circumstances are given by y<sup>e</sup> other Certificates*

\* *Profoundly Ignorant or wilfully false !*

## Mr. Adam Cushing's Certificate.

March 25. 1739. In the House of Representatives.

"THE Question was put, *Whether the House would proceed to make*  
 " *any Supply of the Treasury with Bills of Credit, to be drawn in*  
 " *before the Year 1742 ?* Which Vote was decided by *Yeas and Nays :*  
 " And in trying said Votes, Mr. Cotton stood *Neuter* till the House  
 " was adjourned that Evening : And the Reason he gave that Evening  
 " was, *That in such Votes the Speaker and Clerk were excused, unless*  
 " *there should be a Tye.* And since, viz. this present Year, he told me  
 " the same Reason.

Adam Cushing.

June 24. 1740.

But some of his *Sticklers* ( who perhaps are afraid an *honest Letter* might go to their Towns, and let 'em know when *tender Points*, and *Affairs of Consequence* come upon the Carpet, their Members *dodge and keep out of the Way* ) have urg'd that saying, *He can't do his Duty as Clerk and Representative, is a great Reflection ;* I think none at all, as I meant it, ( and of which Opinion some of his own Friends have been ) from the Multiplicity of the Business, and not in an adverse Sense ; which I doubt not could have made appear in either Sense, could the Honourable House have stoop'd so much below their Honour as to have entred into the Merits. But as Mr. *Memorialist* threatens to sue at Common Law, I may then perhaps have an Opportunity, &c. In the mean Time I am not greatly terrified, because the Damages can't rise higher than the Thing damnified : As if I damnified a Bag of Cotton, and the Damages prov'd, I can but pay for the Bag.

But I was so far from attempting to ruin his Character ( *which perhaps may be too late for me to do at this Time of Day* ) that I can make it appear, I was not so much as officious in his Election, as appears by the following Certificates ;

9 JU 64

Mr.

*\* Perhaps may give the publick Roleau Cottons  
 Dying speech at Town meeting*



## Mr. *Thomas Temple's* Certificate.

"I THE Subscriber testify and say, That whereas there was a Dis-  
 " pute at *Woburn*, Whether Mr. *Roland Cotton*, our late Repre-  
 " sentative, was *Neuter* or not, when the Question was put in the  
 " Honourable House of Representatives, by *Yeas* and *Nays*, about supply-  
 " ing the Treasury? I for my own Satisfaction apply'd to Mr. *James*  
 " *Allen* at *Boston*, and desired him to set the Matter in a true Light;  
 " and heard his Opinion ask'd, Whether it might not be best to in-  
 " form the Select-Men? To which the said Mr. *Allen* made Answer,  
 " That as to the Thing he thought it notoriously true; and as it was  
 " a publick Fact he'd give it under his Hand to his Friend at *Woburn*,  
 " who might shew it to Mr. *Cotton* if he deny'd it: But as to send-  
 " ing it to the Select-Men, he could by no Means think it proper to  
 " intermeddle with the Town Affairs.

*Thomas Temple.*



## Mr. *Samuel Thompson's* Certificate.

"I THE Subscriber testify to the Truth of the above, and further  
 " declare, That I applied myself to Mr. *Allen*, Mr. *Cushing* and Mr.  
 " *Bromfield*, and they all satisfied me that he was a *Neuter*.

*Samuel Thompson.*

But I was credibly inform'd, That this same Mr. *Cotton* made In-  
 terest against me with Gentlemen of the Silver Bank, and why not  
 equally faulty? Nay, more faulty than to write to a *private Friend*  
 a *public Fact*? And where is the Difference, as to intermeddling, be-  
 tween writing in Favour, or to the Prejudice of a Candidate? Which  
 fairly introduces the Letter of *John Quincy, Esq;*

B

The

*\* In Opposition to the Silver Bank & his  
 your Voted for it*

The Letter of *John Quincy, Esq;* to  
Mr. *Roland Cotton.*

S I R,

“ I Am very sorry your Messenger has been detain’d so long, which  
“ happen’d by my Absence from home, when he came to my  
“ House, being but this Minute, about Nine o’Clock this Evening come  
“ home. I am much surprized that any such Report should be spread  
“ concerning you, relating to the Supply of the Treasury, when the  
“ Question was decided by *Yeas and Nays, which I think altogether false*  
“ *and groundless* ; for I am very sure I did not then call upon you for  
“ your Vote myself, nor do I remember that any other Person did so.  
“ And you did very right since you inserted your Name, to do it accor-  
“ ding to your Judgment.  
“ I hope that this Report will not be now improved to your Disad-  
“ vantage in your Election approaching ; but that the House of Re-  
“ presentatives may have your Company and Assistance another Year,  
“ where I shall be glad to meet with you.

*Who am with great Respect,*  
*Sir your humble Servant,*

*Braintree, May*  
22. 1740.

John Quincy.

A true Copy of the Original upon File.  
Attest. *John Russel*, Town Clerk for *Woburn*.

Which I think deserves little Notice or Remark ; but must ob-  
serve, The Reason given, why he thinks *the Report of said Cotton’s*  
*being Neuter is false and groundless*, because he nor any other Person  
call’d upon him ; and the Reason he gave for himself was, *That the*  
*Speaker and Clerk were excus’d from voting* ; ( which is false in Fact )  
both which Reasons allow the Fact ; but in an idle, silly Manner  
endeavour to excuse it, as must be allow’d by every Person capable  
of

*Lordships most Obedient, most devoted*



of distinguishing. For the Speaker had no Right to call upon any Man, because the Order of the House was, *That the Clerk should call every Man by Name, and take the Answer Yea or Nay* ; and Mr. Memorialist, as Clerk, ought to have call'd upon himself as Representative, ( for if he will appear, he ought to act in two Capacities ) and not after the Court rises insert his Name in the List of *Nays*, lest his Town should stone him : But all this may do well enough for a fix Days *Probatum est* Clerk, for his *Imprimatur* runs for no longer Time.

I shall now give you the Vote of the Honourable House of Representatives, and let every Man of Thought, or even of common Sense, judge the *mighty Reason* the *Memorialist* has to crow, or whether he does not *glory in his Shame* ? And how it was possible with the least Propriety, for the House to take any Notice of his Memorial, which they voted not cognizable before 'em, and yet ( *tho' in a very slighty Manner* ) partly granted the Prayer, and at the same Time *Ordered the Memorial to be dismiss'd*, which is as follows :

PROVINCE of the MAS-) To the Honourable House  
SACHUSETTS-BAY. ) of Representatives Assem-  
bled in *Boston*, May 29. 1740.

The Memorial of *Roland Cotton*, Representative  
of the Town of *Woburn*,

*Humbly sheweth,*

“ **T** H A T your Memorialist has had the Honour of a Seat in this  
“ House these three Years past, and as a Member thereof, to  
“ the utmost endeavour'd to serve the true Interest of his  
“ Town and Country with Faithfulness and Integrity.  
“ That the Honourable House of Representatives of the last Year,  
“ elected him their Clerk, in which Capacity he serv'd to their Accep-  
“ tance : Notwithstanding which, Mr. *James Allen*, one of the Re-  
“ presentatives for the Town of *Boston* for the last and present Year,  
“ has

*Ipsa Dixit*

*gratis Dixit*

*& the House the Honour of him as a Member!*

*Suis Julia fando*

*imperio e Sachaymis!*

" has ( by a Letter signed by his own Hand ) which *has been industri-*  
 " *ously spread about the Town of Woburn, endeavoured utterly to ruin*  
 " *the Character of your Memorialist with his Constituents, and thereby*  
 " *hinder his Election :* The said Letter containing divers Things of  
 " your Memorialist which are *false and injurious, as will appear from*  
 " *an attested Copy thereof herewith presented to this Honourable House.*  
 " Your Memorialist therefore humbly prays this Honourable House  
 " to take the Premises into your serious Consideration, and take such  
 " Measures to vindicate the *Honour of this House of Representatives*  
 " *and the Character of your Memorialist,* as shall be agreeable to Truth,  
 " Justice and the known Integrity of the Representative Body of this  
 " Province.

And as in Duty bound shall ever pray.

*Roland Cotton.*

A true Copy of the Original upon File.

Attest. *Roland Cotton*, Cler. Rep.

Astonishing this to a low and common, or at least tolerable Un-  
 derstanding ! And who can account for it ? That an honest, innocent  
 private Letter, sent to a private Friend by a private Hand, about a  
 private Man, neither of the Parties being either Officers or Mem-  
 bers of the Court, not then sitting, or so much as in being, could pro-  
 duce a Complaint or Memorial that could possibly be allow'd so much  
 as to lie on the Table ! I could recite to you many little, low, mean  
 Circumstances and Contrivances of the *Memorialist*, were it worth  
 while to trouble you, or my self about 'em ; as producing a false Copy  
 of a *præposterous Record* of a Town Clerk, and denying in the House  
 that he had any other Copy ; for which refer you to the Town Clerk's  
 Certificates as follows, viz.

### Certificates of the Town Clerk of *Woburn, May 31st. 1740.*

" THESE may certify whom it may concern, That at the same  
 " Time I gave Mr. *Roland Cotton* a Copy of Mr. *James Allen's*  
 Letter,

\* *The Honour of the House of Representatives*  
*Depends upon the Character of Mr. Memorialist*



“ Letter, bearing Date *May* the 15th, 1740. I also gave him a  
 “ Copy of the Honourable *John Quincy Esqr's*; Letter of *Braintree*,  
 “ bearing Date *May* the 22d. 1740.

*Woburn, May 31. 1740.*

*John Russel* Town Clerk for *Woburn*.

“ **W**HEN I received Mr. *Allen's* Letter, at the lower End thereof,  
 “ the Paper being folded up and sealed, which Seal I thought to  
 “ be the sealing of the Letter when sent up to the Town, but this Day  
 “ upon viewing the same, am of Opinion, there is some writing sealed  
 “ up, what I do not know, having not opened the Seal but kept it  
 “ as committed to me.

*Woburn, May 31. 1740.*

*John Russel* Town Clerk for *Woburn*.

As also denying me a Copy of his *superfine Memorial*, and obliged me to move for an Order of the House, and then obtain'd it; and when he was jealous of the Fate of it, stood up with a Paper in his Hand ( which I suppose was a Vote ready cut and dry'd ) and demanded of the House to vindicate his Character ( a fine Business for the House to set upon, and perhaps an impossible Task ) But the House not thinking it proper to be cram'd with his Vote, ( though the single Point upon the Carpet, and for which the Memorial was refer'd, was, *Whether the Memorial should be sustained or not ?* ) directed Judge *Graves* and Major *Pomroy* to draw up a proper Vote, which they bro't in, and was accepted by the House, with some Amendments. And now, pray Sir, give your serious and reverend Attention to this mighty Support of *Mr. Memorialist's Character, Parturiunt Montes !* ---- And I apprehend, it's like giving a Babe a two Penny Rattle to hush him from crying. But see the Vote and judge of it, and what mighty Reason the Chap has to triumph : It is as follows :

## The Vote of the House.

“ **U**PON reading a Memorial presented by Mr. *Roland Cotton*, Clerk  
 “ of the House, referring to a Letter sent by Mr. *James Allen*,  
 “ containing, as he sets forth, sundry Reflections on him, in order to  
 “ prevent

" prevent his being elected a Representative, &c. The House came  
 " into the following Vote, viz. *That although the said Mr. Roland*  
 \* " *Cotton's Character stands well with the House, yet they are of Opinion*  
 " *it is not proper for the House to enter into the Merits of the Cause*  
 " *contain'd in said Memorial; and therefore Order'd that the same be*  
 " *dismiss'd, and that the said Mr. Roland Cotton be directed to bring*  
 \* " *in a Bill to prevent any Persons unduly and irregularly influencing*  
 " *others in the Choice of a Representative for the future.*

A true Copy Attest. *Roland Cotton* Cler. Rep.

I beg Leave to observe, The Reflections upon which this Memorial  
 is built, are, *as he sets forth, a mighty Foundation of Credit this!* And  
 pray observe how his negative Character is lugg'd in, viz. *That he stands*  
*well with this House:* Which could not be judg'd of the 15th of May  
 last when this Letter was wrote: The English of which, I apprehend  
 to be this, That he has serv'd the House about *six Days*, and he stands  
 well, because not *stigmatiz'd*; and the House judging it not proper to  
 enter into the Merits, allow'd no Opportunity to prove any Thing against  
 him: *A most sure Way not to be detected!* But I perceive the mighty  
 Flourish, and pretty Sugar Plumb is, That he bring in a Bill to prevent  
*unduly and irregularly* influencing future Choices of Representatives,  
 which I take to be a severe Banter upon him; as no Body can think  
 the House suppos'd him capable of the Thing; but assign'd him the  
 Task as a Punishment for his *impertinent Memorial*, or else perhaps as a  
 fond Parent gives a crying Child a sharp Knife to quiet him, tho' sure  
 to cut his Fingers. But if the *dignified Memorialist*, with some of his  
*own Stamp*, should put their *Sage Heads* together and jumble up a *Pad-*  
*lock or Wooden Shooe Bill*, and present it, I promise my self the Pleasure  
 of moving to the Honourable House for inserting sundry salutary Clauses;  
 which shall introduce with a merry Story as I heard it from an ingenious  
 Gentleman of my Acquaintance: It is as follows;

" A Weaver in the County of P----b made a Business of playing upon  
 " a Fiddle and drew away many People to hear the Musick;  
 " upon which a Complaint or *Memorial* was put into the Church against  
 " him, and upon the Trial, (*not before the Trial*) he was order'd to  
 " be suspended: But some Time after, the said Weaver mov'd for a  
 " Restoration, making a penitent Confession; and the Parson putting

*Tanto Molis erat Roland Condere nomen? & sapientia*  
*in sight of it, We'll bore a Hole in Roland's nose, & put*  
*therein, we'll Lead him up & Down the Town, that*  
*may Laugh at him*



“ the Question, Brother C----n started up and agreed to said Motion,  
 “ with an Amendment, That the Instrument should be taken away to  
 “ prevent any such *undue* and *irregular* Practices for the future ; which  
 “ was voted accordingly : Some Time after it so happen'd, that Bro-  
 “ ther C----n was a Widower ( or if a Batchelor, is all one ) and had  
 “ a handsome Maid, and happening to be too active, said Maid prov'd  
 “ with Child ; upon which Brother C----n was call'd before the  
 “ Church and suspended ; and afterwards mov'd for Restoration ; which  
 “ charitable Brother Weaver agreed to with this Amendment, *That*  
 “ *the Instrument should be taken away, to prevent such more than undue*  
 “ *and irregular influencing the Propagation of Mankind for the future :*  
 “ Which was voted accordingly.

Any Person that makes a Business of kissing the Girls, that treats high,  
 and begs hard for a Choice both in Town Meeting and out of it, that  
 takes his Estate ( which qualifies him for a Choice ) from his Ancestors  
 by Deed of Gift to defraud the honest Creditors of their just Demands,  
 which perhaps may be more than the whole Estate ; every Person so  
 offending, shall be render'd for ever incapable of a Seat in the House  
 of Representatives. These cursory Hints I give on a sudden, and per-  
 haps may muster up more by the Time the Bill ( *in Embrio*, to be  
 fram'd by *an Embrio* ) has a second Reading. In the mean Time I beg  
 Pardon for the Trouble given you, and believe me to be

SIR,

Your most Humble Servant,

BOSTON, July 25.  
 1740.

*James Allen.*

To

————— *If this<sup>is to</sup> be Try'd by the House of Repre-*  
*sentatives, May we all be Galley slaves*

[ 11 ]

The image shows a piece of aged, dark paper with a prominent diagonal tear. The paper is heavily stained and discolored. Faint, mirrored text from the reverse side is visible through the paper, appearing as bleed-through. The text is mostly illegible due to the damage and staining, but some words like "the", "and", "which", and "to" are discernible. The overall appearance is that of a severely damaged document or photograph.

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